Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OFA-01 EB-07

COME-00 INT-05 DLOS-04 OPIC-03 TRSE-00 CEA-01 CIEP-01

OMB-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 /078 W

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P R 131610Z SEP 75 FM AMEMBASSY QUITO TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7253 AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

SECRET QUITO 6867

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, EC SUBJECT: MFA

REF: QUITO 6666

1. AMBASSADORS GARCIA DE BUSTAMENTE AND MINISTER AYALA, THE GOE NEGOTIATING TEAM ON LOS MATTERS, EMPHASIZED TO POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON SEPTEMBER 12 THE NEED FOR US AND GOE TO TRY TO AVOID FISHING DISPUTE INCIDENTS IN COMING TUNA SEASON. THEY BELIEVE LOS AGREEMENT UNLIKELY TO BE REACHED IN TIME TO COVER NEXT SEASON AND REPEATED URGINGS MADE ON SEPTEMBER 5 TO AMBASSADORS BREWSTER, MOORE AND CLINGAN THAT TEMPORARY MEASURES BE TAKEN BY OUR GOVERNMENTS TO PREVENT PROBLEMS DURING COMING FISHING SEASON THAT MIGHT THROW OFF TRACKS PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARD FORMAL AND LASTING RESOLUTION OF THE LONG STANDING POLITICALLY SENSITIVE DISPUTE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR, AMBASSADOR GARCIA STATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS NOT CONSULTING WITH OTHER ENTITIES OF THE GOE REGARDING LOS NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR SOME KIND OF REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO SOLVING THE LONG-SECRET

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STANDING FISHING DISPUTE BETWEEN THE US AND ECUADOR. HE

STATED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS IN THIS AREA THAT MFA PURSUE THIS SUBJECT ON THE BASIS OF CONSERVATION AND MULTILATERAL LAW OF SEA NEGOTIATIONS. GARCIA SAID THAT BOTH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT WERE FULLY INFORMED AND IN ACCORD WITH THIS COURSE OF ACTION. (THIS IS AT VARIANCE WITH PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSED LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE AMBASSADOR AT DINNER ON SEPTEMBER 5.)

- 3. AMBASSADOR GARCIA STATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD BEEN RE-EXAMINING THE IDEA OF ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS AND BELIEVED THEY COULD DO MUCH TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. HE WANTED TO ASSURE THE US THAT THERE WERE NO PROHIBITIONS ON US INVESTMENT IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY. THEN FOLLOWING A COMMENT REGARDING THE UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AN INTERNATIONAL LOS ACCORD PRIOR TO THE NEXT TUNA SEASON, MINISTER AYALA SAID IT WAS HIGHLY DESIREABLE THAT THE US TAKE TWO MEASURES:
- A) ENCOURAGE TUNA FISHERMEN TO BUY LICENSES FOR THE COMING SEASON, AND
- B) ENCOURAGE THE CONCLUSION OF ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS IN ORDER TO AMELIORATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN AMERICAN FISHERMEN AND THE ECUADOREAN FISHING INDUSTRY. POLITICAL COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT AMBASSADOR BREWSTER AND US GOVERNMENT ARE STUDYING POSSIBLE STEPS THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS MIGHT TAKE TO PREVENT PROBLEMS DURING THE COMING FISHING SEASON, BUT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN US THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE FINALIZED.
- 4. AMBASSADOR GARCIA SAID GOE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE HAD EMBASSY THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT PRIOR TO SEPT. 5
 VISIT OF AMBASSADORS MOORE AND CLINGAN, AND BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER PRIOR TO MINISTER AYALA'S DEPARTURE LATER THIS MONTH TO ATTEND TALKS IN NEW YORK. HE SAID AYALA WAS A KEY MAN ON THIS SUBJECT AND WOULD BE ABSENT FROM QUITO FOR THREE MONTHS. POLITICAL COUNSELOR GAVE ASSURANCES THAT WE WERE SERIOUSLY STUDYING THE PROBLEM.
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